THE

Athenian Gazette:

OR,

CASUISTICAL MERCURY,

Refolving all the most

Nice and Curious Questions

PROPOSED BY THE

INGENIOUS Of Either Sex:

From Tuesday, Decem. 18th, to Saturday March 30th, 1695.

The Sixteenth Volume.

TREATING

On the several Subjects mentioned in the CONTENTS, at the beginning of the Book.

LONDON:

Printed for John Dunton at the Ravenin Jewen-street, 1695.

Where is to be had the Entire Set of Athenian Gazettes (and the Supplements to 'em) for the Year 1691. as also the Entire Set for the Year 1692. for the year 1693. and 1694. (Or single Volumes to this Time.)

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PREFACE

TO THE

Sixteenth Volume.

Y turn to write a Preface! why, the Subject is as dry as Don Quivedo's Old Women that were made Matches, and stor'd up in Tinderboxes: Pray, Gentlemen, excuse me, and let us agree to Petition our loving Querists to take our succeeding Volumes without Prefa-How! the majority of Votes against me? Then may every one of you squeeze an empty Bottle, Crambi bis coquere, compile Volumes upon a Cow's Tail: In Short, write Athenian Prefaces till our Bookseller is weary with taking Mony, till our Printer has no Errata's, till the Town asks a wife Question, or we give a proper Answer, till good sense is prefer'd to Love-

Stories; in a word, till the Age is Wise and Honest.

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Assist me then, thou Genius of Athens, thou Tutelary Guardian of Areopagus, not with Sense or Reason, for that was never thy Province, but something new and noisy; no matter for design, for thou hast not one Votary guilty of Thinking, nor we a Reader that could understand us if we should blunder upon Reason. Help us to speak intelligibly of what we are ignorant, as to show the Laws and Manners of the People in the Moon, or of our own Auftralians, to Square the Circle, to reconcile the Antient Historiography, to fix the sense of the Law, to reconcile all Religionaries, to prevent War, or to Conquer; to Scandalize Mony, to interpret Dreams, to prove Aftrology reasonable, to make the Bully modest, the Town Beaux humble, the Atheist devout: In fine, to perform all things possible and impossible, and please all our loving Querists, cou'd we but be expert in these things, we Should work Wonders, and out-do the Delphine Oracles in our Answers.

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